

CHILLY WEATHER ADVISORY

MINNESOTANS KNOW THE DRILL HOPE FOR THE BEST, EXPECT SNOW

WHEN THE WEATHER turns to snow and ice, the City's equipment operators hit the streets to plow Bloomington's 368 miles of roads and 492 cul-de-sacs. Snow removal is primarily the responsibility of the Public Works Maintenance Division.

But did you know that the Park Maintenance Division is responsible for sidewalk snow removal on over 250 miles of public sidewalks throughout the City? Any winter storm that requires snowplows to be out will also result in city sidewalks being plowed.

Snowplowing strategies

The strategy used to plow streets, sidewalks and other City facilities depends on several factors, including snow duration and accumulation, temperatures before and after a snowfall, and subsequent wind and weather conditions.

Although strategies for snowplowing may be contingent on a variety of factors, the goal of the City's snowplowing efforts remains the same: keep roadways safe and clear for motorists and pedestrians.

For more information, call the City's Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SNOW.



Snow alerts

Go to our website, click on *E-Subscribe* and sign up to receive snow alerts via e-mail or text message.



GET THE FACTS WHAT IS A SNOW EMERGENCY?

A Snow Emergency is automatically in effect when three or more inches of snow have accumulated. No parking is allowed on any street for the next 48 hours or until the street has been plowed curb to curb.

STAY BACK!

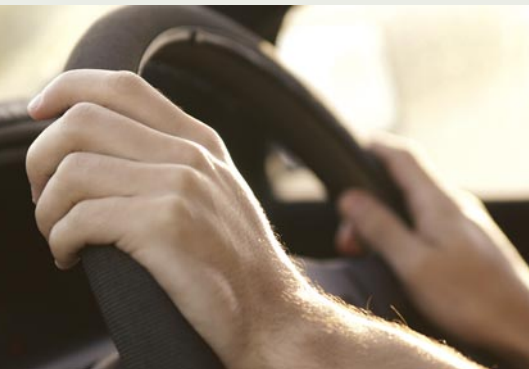
SHARING THE ROAD WITH SNOWPLOWS

THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT of Transportation urges motorists to slow down while driving and be wary of snowplows.

Follow these tips to stay safe:

- Slow down and keep your distance. Snowplows need to drive slower in order to do their jobs.
- Never drive into a snow cloud created by a snowplow.
- Always assume snowplow operators cannot see you.
- Think twice before passing. Do not pass a snowplow unless you can be sure in which lane the plow blade is located.

For more information, call the City's Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.



DEFENSIVE DRIVING ALLOWING FOR TIME TO REACT

DID YOU KNOW it's illegal for drivers to compose, read or send a text message or access the Internet on a wireless device when their vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic?

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, in 2008 driver distraction was the number one contributing factor to multiple-vehicle crashes in Minnesota. While most headlines focus concerns on distractions of teenage drivers, last year it was actually the 20 - 24 age group that contributed the largest percentage of distracted drivers to multiple vehicle crashes.

To reduce your risk, incorporate the following actions into your daily driving habits:

- Do not text while driving.
- Stay focused and alert.
- Learn to identify and anticipate potentially hazardous situations such as vehicles stopping suddenly or changing lanes abruptly.
- Always be on the lookout for pedestrians, bicyclists or unexpected objects entering the roadway.
- Allow yourself time to react to hazards by maintaining proper following distances.

Check with your insurance company on reduced rates for completing defensive driving courses. For more information, visit www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org.



WHAT'S TO KNOW ABOUT SNOW?

FACTS ABOUT CLEARING AWAY THAT FLUFFY WHITE STUFF

WINTER IN BLOOMINGTON usually means snow, snow and more snow. Bloomington averages 40 inches of snow per year, which results in 10 - 12 plowable snowfalls per year. That equals 2,016 lane miles of snow for Public Works to plow at the average cost of \$10.80 per household per year. The City also clears snow from 33 skating rinks and every municipal building parking lot and walkway in the city. That's a lot of plowing, but Public Works isn't the only group working for you during a snow-related emergency.

- Police monitor street conditions and enforce snow-related ordinances.
- Equipment personnel keep plows ready to operate and conduct quick repairs when necessary.
- Utility crews augment Maintenance staff to operate equipment.

Residents can help by complying with snow-related ordinances and reporting slippery intersections or other unsafe areas. To contact Maintenance, call 952-563-8760.

OUT OF HARM'S WAY

KEEP WARM WITHOUT WORRY

STAY SAFE AND COZY WITH THESE FIRE SAFETY TIPS

WHILE PORTABLE HEATERS and fireplaces may help you feel cozy and warm during the winter, they are extremely dangerous if not used properly.

To help keep your home safe and warm this season, the Bloomington Fire Prevention Division and Bloomington Fire Department recommend the following guidelines:

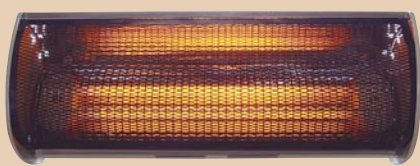
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Test smoke alarms at least once a month and replace batteries twice a year.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm near bedrooms and on every level of the home.

- Space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper and bedding, at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never use extension cords for portable heaters.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Replace old and cracked power cords.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
- Have your chimney inspected each year and cleaned if necessary.



With simple precautions, help Bloomington meet its goal of decreasing home-heating fires this winter.

For more information, call Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.



DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of heating fire deaths are caused by home space heaters. Remember to turn yours off before going to bed.